

GRANTS OF LAND TO THE SEVERAL STATES.

LETTER

FROM

THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE,

TRANSMITTING,

In answer to a letter from the Chairman of the Committee of Public Lands, statements showing the grants of land which have been made to the several States for various purposes.

JANUARY 25, 1849.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
December 12, 1848.

DEAR SIR: Occasions are almost every day occurring, both in the House and in the Committee of Public Lands, when it becomes necessary to ascertain all the grants of land which have been made to the several States for various purposes; this can now be accurately done only by applying to the Department, and there only by looking up all the several laws making the grants, and there finding in the columns of the records the various entries to ascertain the amount. This is a great inconvenience both to Congress and your office. To remedy this, it seems to me there should be prepared some well digested and accurate tabular statement on the subject. It is true that an approximation towards it is found in your report, in reply to a Senate resolution, (Senate executive document 41, 1st session 30th Congress;) but it is there mingled with other matter, and is, besides, imperfect in not presenting the dates and different purposes of the grants, and in not including the grants made while the States were Territories.

If you concur in this view, will you have the goodness to respond hereto.

Respectfully, your humble servant,

J. COLLAMER,

Chairman Committee Public Lands.

Hon. R. M. YOUNG,

Commissioner of the General Land Office.

Tippin & Streeper, print.

GENERAL LAND OFFICE,
December 30, 1848.

SIR: Yours of December 12, has been received, and in compliance with your request, I have caused to be prepared in this office, and herewith transmit statements, marked A, B, C, and D, showing—

1st. The reservations in, and grants to the different *Territories* for school purposes, *universities*, *salines*, *seats of government*, and *internal improvements*, (the several grants under the act of 4th September, 1841, being reported separate and apart from others for same purpose.)

2d. The additional grants of a similar character which were subsequently made to the same Territories, or district of country *after they became sovereign States of the Union*, the previous grants to such Territories being within the limits of such States to which they correspond respectively.

3d. Grants to the States of *Connecticut*, *Tennessee*, and *Kentucky*—to the first and third for deaf and dumb asylums, and to the second for educational purposes—accompanied by an *aggregate* statement (D) of the several grants herein before alluded to.

In preparing these statements I have caused a careful examination to be made of *all the laws* bearing upon the subject, from the ordinance of 1785 down to the present moment; and I do not think that any grant of the character mentioned has been omitted.

You will also perceive that a note has been placed opposite to each grant, indicating the act under which made, so that should there be an error in the *quantity* reported, it can at once be detected by turning to the law.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

RICHARD M. YOUNG,
Commissioner.

HON. JACOB COLLAMER,
Chairman Committee Public Lands,
House of Representatives U. S.

A.

Exhibit of reservations in and grants to the different Territories for purposes mentioned.

Territories.	Universities.	Seats of government— Public buildings.	Roads.	Canals and rivers.	Aggregate.
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Northwestern	(1) 46,080	—	—	—	46,080
Indiana	(2) 46,080	—	—	—	46,080
Missouri	(3) 23,040	—	—	—	23,040
Michigan	(4) *47,950 ⁸⁵ / ₁₀₀	(12) 10,000	—	—	*11,870 ⁸⁵ / ₁₀₀
Arkansas	(5) *46,080	(13) 7,400	—	—	*7,400
Alabama	(6) 23,040	—	—	—	23,040
Mississippi	(7) 23,040	—	—	—	23,040
Orleans	(8) *46,080	—	—	—	*
Florida	(9) 46,080	(14) *1,120	(16) 10	—	47,210
Wisconsin	(10) *46,080	—	—	(17) 139,636	*139,636
Iowa	(11) *46,080	(15) †640	—	—	*640
					368,036 ⁸⁵ / ₁₀₀

*The reservation of 46,080 acres for universities in each of the Territories of Michigan, Arkansas, Orleans, Wisconsin, and Iowa, has not been included in the aggregate, for the reason that upon their admission into the Union, the same was granted to the States, and they have been charged therewith in exhibit B.

† Per act approved 3d March, 1839, \$20,000 granted to the Territory of Florida for the purpose of erecting a State-house or public buildings.

‡ Certain pieces or parcels of land described, in the town of Du Buque, upon which the old county jail stood, granted to the county of Du Buque, per act of 15th June, 1844.

- (1) Granted per act of Congress, approved 21st April, 1792, and located in the old Marietta district.
- (2) Three townships directed to be reserved, per act approved 26th March, 1804—one in the Detroit district, one in Kaskaskia, and one in Vincennes. The two last mentioned were located, and are reported in this exhibit. No selection or reservation was made in the Detroit district under this law. (See note 4 of this exhibit.) Per act of Congress, approved 2d March, 1831, the State of Illinois was authorized to relinquish her right to, and surrender the township (5 n. R. 1 w.) located under act 26th March, 1804, and to take other lands in lieu thereof; which she has done.
- (3) Reserved from sale, per act approved 17th February, 1818.
- (4) Per act of Congress, approved 20th May, 1826, the Secretary of the Treasury was directed to set apart and reserve two townships (460,80) for the use of an university within the said Territory. One of the said townships to be in lieu of the township directed to be reserved per act 26th March, 1804, in the Detroit district. (see note 2 of this exhibit;) both of the said townships granted and conveyed to the State, per act of Congress approved 23d June, 1836, 1,870 85-100 acres reserved for Old College at Detroit. Patented 15th May, 1824.
- (5) Per act of Congress 2d March, 1827, the Secretary of the Treasury was directed to set apart and reserve two townships for a seminary of learning; one of them to be in lieu of the township directed to be reserved, per act 17th February, 1818. Both of the said townships "vested in and confirmed to the General Assembly of the State," per act of Congress 23d June, 1836.
- (6) Reserved per act 20th April, 1818.
- (7) Located by Secretary of the Treasury for Jefferson College, per acts 3d March, 1803, and 20th February, 1812.
- (8) Reserved per acts of Congress 21st April, 1806, and 3d March, 1811. Granted to the State per act 3d March, 1827.
- (9) Reserved per acts of Congress 3d March, 1823, and 29th January, 1827.
- (10) Set apart and reserved per act of Congress, 12th June, 1838. Granted to the State, per act approved 6th August, 1846.
- (11) Directed to be reserved, per act of Congress, 20th July, 1840. Granted to the State, per act approved 3d March, 1845.
- (12) 10,000 acres, (or so much thereof as might remain after satisfying certain claims designated,) given to the town of Detroit, per act 21st April, 1806; the proceeds to go towards building a court-house and jail. (See supplementary act 29th August, 1842.)
- (13) 10 sections (6,400 acres) granted per act of Congress, 2d March, 1831, for public buildings at the seat of government; and 1,000 acres granted per act of 15th June, 1832, for the erection of a court-house and jail at Little Rock.
- (14) 160 acres granted for seat of government, per act 24th May, 1824; 960 acres for public buildings, per 2d section act 2d March, 1829.
- (15) Granted per act of Congress, 2d March, 1839, for public buildings at seat of government.
- (16) Granted per act 3d March, 1835, railroad terminus at St. Marks.
- (17) 138,996 acres granted per act of Congress, 18th June, 1838, for the construction of Milwaukee and Rock river Canal; and 640 acres per act 15th June, 1844, for the improvement of Grant river, at the town of Potosi.

NOTE.—It may be proper to remark here, that the 16th section in every township and fractional township has been reserved, commencing with the ordinance of 20th May, 1785, in all the Territories, for school purposes; and that the same has been subsequently granted to the States, (with two exceptions, Mississippi and Louisiana,) upon their admission into the Union. There is no allusion to such grant in the compacts with the two States mentioned. Reference is also made to the fact, of the passage by Congress, in the year 1844, (15th June, Chap. 55,) of an act "to authorize the selection of certain school lands in the Territories of Florida, Iowa, and Wisconsin," wherever the 16th section was covered in whole or in part by a private claim, "held by title confirmed, or legally decided to be valid and sufficient;" the said Territories being restricted in their said selections to lands "which may have been offered at public sale, and remain unsold." No selections, however, have been made under this law, the said Territories preferring, it is presumed, to avail themselves of the privilege conferred (upon their admission into the Union) by the general school law of 20th May, 1826, to obtain lands (for school purposes) which have never been exposed to public sale.

B.

Exhibit of donations and grants to the different States for various purposes mentioned.

Names of States.	Donations.				Grants for internal improvement.			Aggregate.
	Common schools.	Universities.	Seats of government.	Salines.	Per act of 4th September, 1841.	Roads.	Canals.	
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	
Ohio - - - -	704,488	(1) 23,040	None	(23) 24,216	None	(27) 80,773	(29) 1,100,361	1,932,878
Indiana - - -	650,317	(2) 23,040	(13) 2,560	(24) 23,040	None	(28) 170,582	(30) 1,439,279	2,308,818
Illinois - - -	978,755	(3) 23,040	(14) 2,560	(25) 121,629	209,085	None	(31) 290,915	1,625,964
Missouri - - -	1,199,139	(4) 23,040	(15) 2,560	(15) 46,080	500,000	None	None	1,770,819
Alabama - - -	902,774	(5) 23,040	(16) *1,620	(26) 23,040	100,000	None	(32) rivers, 400,000	1,450,474
Mississippi - -	837,584	(6) 23,040	(17) 1,280	None	500,000	None	None	1,361,904
Louisiana - - -	786,044	(7) 46,080	† None	None	500,000	None	None	1,332,124
Michigan - - -	1,067,397	(8) 46,080	(18) 3,200	(18) 46,080	500,000	None	None	1,662,757
Arkansas - - -	886,460	(9) 46,080	(19) 3,200	(19) 46,080	500,000	None	None	1,481,820
Wisconsin - - -	958,648	(10) 46,080	(20) 6,400	(20) 46,080	B 360,364	None	(33) 358,400	1,775,972
Iowa - - - -	905,144	(11) 46,080	(21) 3,200	(21) 46,080	500,000	None	(34) 325,078	1,825,582
Florida - - -	908,503	(12) 46,080	(22) 5,120	None	C 499,990	None	None	1,459,693
	10,785,253	414,720	31,700	422,325	4,169,439	251,355	3,914,033	19,988,825

* Per acts of Congress, approved 26th May, 1824, the right and title of the United States, to certain lots, &c., in the city of Mobile, and in Tuscaloosa, granted to the corporations of same.

† See act of Congress, approved 29th April, 1812, granting to the governor of the State of Louisiana, for the time being, and his successors in office, a lot of ground together with the government house, and other buildings thereon.

A The 1-36th part of the area of each State for common schools, with the exception of Florida; in which State 1,716,935 acres (the aggregate areas of the "Arredondo grant" and "Forbes's purchase," for which no school lands are provided under existing legislation,) have been deducted from the area of the State, and the 1-36th part of the residue reported as reserved for schools.

B 139,636 acres granted to Wisconsin Territory for internal improvements, per acts of Congress approved 18th June, 1838, and 15th June, 1844.—(See Exhibit A, grants to the Territories.) This quantity added to 360,364, makes the 500,000 acres granted per act of 4th September, 1841.

C 10 acres granted to Florida Territory, per act 3d March, 1835, (railroad terminus, St. Marks,) which added to the 499,990, makes the 500,000 acres granted per act 4th September, 1841.

- (1) Granted per act approved 3d March, 1803; two townships (46,080 acres) had been previously granted per act 21st April, 1792, *Northwestern Territory*, for same purpose, and were located in the old *Marietta* district.—(See Exhibit A, containing grants to the Territories.)
- (2) Granted per act approved 19th April, 1816; one township (23,040 acres) previously directed to be reserved per act 20th March, 1804, in *Indiana Territory*, for same purpose, and was located in the *Vincennes* district.—(See Exhibit A, containing grants to the Territories.)
- (3) Granted per act approved 18th April, 1818; one township (23,040 acres) previously reserved per act 20th March, 1804, in *Indiana Territory*, for same purpose, and located in the *Kaskaskia* district.—(See Exhibit A, containing grants to the Territories.)
- (4) Granted per act approved 6th March, 1820; one township (23,040 acres) previously reserved per act 17th February, 1818, in *Missouri Territory*, for same purpose.—(See Exhibit A, grants to the Territories.)
- (5) Granted per act approved 2d March, 1819; one township (23,040 acres) previously directed to be reserved, per act 20th April, 1818, in *Alabama Territory*, for same purpose.—(See Exhibit A, grants to the Territories.)
- (6) Granted per act approved 20th February, 1819, in addition to the township (23,040 acres) granted for the support of *Jefferson College*, within *Mississippi Territory*, per acts 3d March, 1803, and 20th February, 1812.—(For latter grant, see Exhibit A.)
- (7) Granted per act approved 3d March, 1827; the Secretary of the Treasury having been previously directed to reserve and locate the same, per 11th section act 21st April, 1806, and 7th section act 3d March, 1811.—(See Exhibit A.)
- (8) Granted and conveyed to the State per act approved 23d June, 1836; the Secretary of the Treasury having been previously directed to set apart and reserve the same, per act approved 20th May, 1826, entitled "An act concerning a seminary of learning in the Territory of Michigan."—(See Exhibit A.)
- (9) Vested in and confirmed to the General Assembly of the State, for the use of a seminary, per act of Congress, approved 23d June, 1836; the Secretary of the Treasury having been previously directed to set apart and reserve the same, within the Territory of Arkansas, per act 2d March, 1827.—(See Exhibit A.)
- (10) Granted and conveyed to the State per act approved 6th August, 1846; the Secretary of the Treasury having been directed per act 12th June, 1838, to set apart and reserve the same for the use of a seminary within the Territory of Wisconsin.—(See Exhibit A.)
- (11) Granted and conveyed to the State per act approved 3d March, 1845; the Secretary of the Treasury having been directed per act 20th July, 1840, to set apart and reserve the same for the use of a seminary.—(See Exhibit A.)
- (12) Granted per act 3d March, 1845, in addition to the two townships (46,080 acres) which had been previously reserved per acts 3d March, 1823, and 29th January, 1827, in *Florida Territory*, for same purpose.—(With regard to the two latter, see Exhibit A.)
- (13) Granted per acts approved 19th April, 1816, and 3d March, 1819.
- (14) Granted per acts approved 3d March, 1819, and 2d March, 1821.
- (15) Granted per act approved 6th March, 1820.
- (16) Granted per act approved 2d March, 1819.
- (17) Granted per act approved 20th February, 1819.
- (18) Granted per act approved 23d June, 1836.
- (19) Granted per act approved 23d June, 1836; the five sections (3,200 acres) granted by this act for the purpose of completing the public buildings at Little Rock, are in addition to the ten sections granted per act 2d March, 1831.—(For latter grant see Exhibit A—Territories.)
- (20) Granted per act approved 6th August, 1846.
- (21) Granted per act approved 3d March, 1845.
- (22) Granted per act approved 3d March, 1845.—(See Exhibit A, containing grants per acts 24th May, 1824, and 2d March, 1829, to the Territory of Florida for seat of government and public buildings thereat, seven quarter sections, 1,120 acres.)
- (23) Granted per act approved 30th April, 1802.
- (24) Granted per act approved 19th April, 1816; selections, however, to the extent of 24,406 32-100ths acres (including quarter of a section containing coal bank) having been made, the legislature of Indiana was authorized to sell and convey the same, per act of Congress 3d July, 1832.
- (25) Granted per act approved 18th April, 1818.
- (26) Granted per act approved 2d March, 1819.
- (27) Granted per acts 28th February, 1823, and 17th April, 1828—the first mentioned act for a road from the Lower Rapids of the Miami of Lake Erie to the western boundary of the Connecticut western reserve; the latter act, for a road from Columbus to Sandusky city.
- (28) Granted per act 2d March, 1827—road "from Lake Michigan, by the way of Indianapolis, to some convenient point on the Ohio river.
- (29) Granted per acts 24th May, 1828, ("Miami Canal from Dayton to Lake Erie, by the Maumee route," and by the 5th section, same act, 500,000 acres to aid in paying the debt, or interest thereon, contracted by the State in the construction of canals within the same,) and 30th June, 1834, (Wabash and Erie canal.)
- (30) Granted per acts 2d March, 1827, 27th February, 1841, and 3d March, 1845, (Wabash and Erie canal.)
- (31) Granted per act 2d March, 1827, (canal "to connect the waters of the Illinois river with those of Lake Michigan.")
- (32) Granted per act approved 23d May, 1823, for "improving the navigation of the Tennessee, Coosa, Cahawba, and Black Warrior rivers."
- (33) Granted per act approved 8th August, 1846, (to aid "in the improvement of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, and to connect the same by a canal.") This grant did not take effect until the admission of Wisconsin into the Union; therefore not deducted from the grant made per act, 4th September, 1841.
- (34) Granted per act approved 8th August, 1846, (to aid "in the improvement of the navigation of the Des Moines river.") This grant did not take effect until the admission of Iowa into the Union; (see 4th section of the act, it being necessary that the legislature of the State should accept the grant,) therefore not deducted from the grant made per act, 4th September, 1841.

C.

*Exhibit of grants to the States of Connecticut, Tennessee, and Kentucky.*CONNECTICUT ASYLUM FOR THE EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTION OF DEAF
AND DUMB PERSONS.

A township of land (23,040 acres) granted to this asylum, per act of Congress, approved 3d March, 1819; to be taken "from any of the unlocated lands of the United States to which the Indian title has been extinguished."

*TENNESSEE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

Per act of Congress, approved 18th April, 1806, the United States ceded to the State of Tennessee all right and claim which they had to the land within that State lying *east and north* of the "congressional reservation line," subject to certain conditions, among which were the following: That the said State should reserve 100,000 acres in one body, within the limits of the lands reserved to the Cherokee Indians, by an act of the State of North Carolina, for the use of two colleges; the one in the east, and the other to be in the western division of the State. Also, 100,000 acres within the same limits, for the use of academies in each county of said State. She was also required, in issuing grants and perfecting titles, to locate 640 acres to every six miles square in the territory thus ceded, where existing claims would permit the same to be appropriated for the use of schools. Per report from the Committee on Public Lands House of Representatives United States, 2d session 25th Congress, it appears, that the whole amount which Tennessee has been enabled to appropriate under the said act of 1806, exclusive of the grant for the use of the two colleges, does not exceed 24,000 acres; put down at 22,705 acres in the memorial from the General Assembly of Tennessee to the Senate and House of Representatives United States, presented 26th March, 1833. In this memorial it is computed that there are 16,000,000 acres north and east of the reservation line, the 1-36th part of which would be 444,444 acres. It is also stated in the said memorial, that the 200,000 acres (required to be reserved, per act of 1800) have been appropriated for the use of colleges and academies.

KENTUCKY ASYLUM FOR TEACHING THE DEAF AND DUMB.

One township of land, excepting section sixteen, for the use of schools therein, granted to this asylum per act of Congress, approved 5th April, 1826, "to be located in one of the Territories on lands to which the Indian title has been extinguished." Per act of Congress, approved 29th January, 1827, power was the given said asylum to locate "so much of the township of land granted" per act of 5th April, 1826, "as has been taken by the claims of those who are entitled to the right of pre-emption in the Territory of Florida, upon any unappropriated and unreserved lands in either of the Territories of Florida or Arkansas."

23,040
222,705
22,400

268,145 aggregate of grants, as per exhibit C.

* Per act of Congress, approved 7th August, 1846, the United States released and surrendered to the State of Tennessee the right and title of the United States to all lands within that State lying *south and west* of the congressional reservation line, which then remained unappropriated; the said "surrender and transfer" being "upon the express condition, that the State of Tennessee shall, out of the proceeds of said lands, set apart and apply forty thousand dollars towards the establishment and support of a college at Jackson, in the county of Madison, Tennessee, if the proceeds of said lands shall amount to so much;" and if not, then whatever sum smaller than that amount, they may yield, in accordance with the provisions contained in a certain act (designated) of the General Assembly of that State, &c., &c.

Exhibits of reservations in, and grants to the different Territories and States, as per exhibits A, B, and C, aggregated.

States.	Donations.					Grants for Internal Improvements.		Aggregate.
	Common schools.	Universities.	Seats of government.	Salines.	Deaf & Dumb Asylums.	Per act of 4th September, 1841.	Roads, rivers, and canals.	
	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>
Ohio - - - -	704,488	69,120	-	24,216	-	-	1,181,134	1,978,958
Indiana - - -	650,317	46,080	2,560	23,040	-	-	1,609,861	2,331,858
Illinois - - -	978,755	46,080	2,560	121,629	-	209,085	290,915	1,649,024
Missouri - - -	1,199,139	46,080	2,560	46,080	-	500,000	-	1,793,859
Alabama - - -	902,774	46,080	1,620	23,040	-	100,000	400,000	1,473,514
Mississippi - -	837,584	46,080	1,280	-	-	500,000	-	1,384,944
Louisiana - - -	786,044	46,080	-	-	-	500,000	-	1,332,124
Michigan - - -	1,067,397	47,950 $\frac{8.5}{100}$	† 13,200	46,080	-	500,000	-	1,674,627 $\frac{8.5}{100}$
Arkansas - - -	886,460	46,080	† 10,600	46,080	-	500,000	-	1,489,220
Wisconsin - - -	958,648	46,080	6,400	46,080	-	360,364	498,036	1,915,608
Iowa - - - -	905,144	46,080	3,840	46,080	-	500,000	325,078	1,826,222
Florida - - - -	908,503	92,160	6,240	-	-	499,990	10	1,506,903
Connecticut - -	-	-	-	-	23,040	-	-	23,040
Tennessee - - -	22,705	*200,000	-	-	-	-	-	222,705
Kentucky - - -	-	-	-	-	22,400	-	-	22,400
	10,807,958	823,950 $\frac{8.5}{100}$	50,860	422,325	45,440	4,169,439	4,305,034	\$ 20,625,006 $\frac{8.5}{100}$

Aggregate of grants as per exhibit A, 368,036 $\frac{8.5}{100}$
 Aggregate of grants as per exhibit B, 19,988,825
 Aggregate of grants as per exhibit C, 268,145

\$20,625,006 $\frac{8.5}{100}$

* For "Colleges and Academies," under act of Congress 18th April, 1806. (See exhibit C.)

† Includes 10,000 acres given to the town of Detroit, per act 21st April, 1806. (See exhibit A.)

‡ Includes 1,000 acres granted per act 15th June, 1832, for the erection of a court-house and jail at Little Rock. (See exhibit A.)